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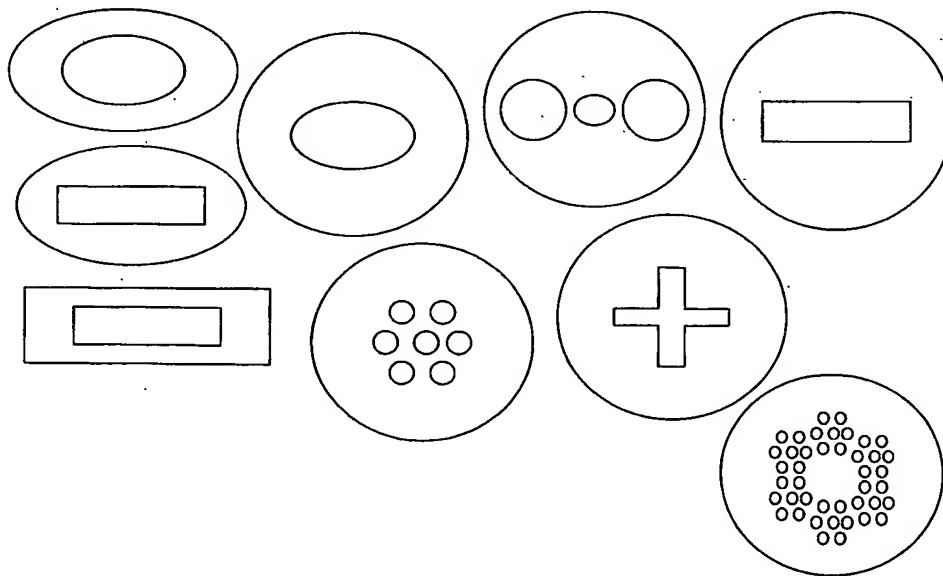
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(54) Title: **SILICON OXIDE BASED ARTICLES**



(57) Abstract: Particularly shaped articles constituted by silicon oxide, as such or with suitable additives, prepared by room temperature molding according to a process comprising: preparation of a sol starting from a silicon alcoxide, or from a silicon alcoxide and at least a precursor of at least one of the additional elements; hydrolysis of the sol obtained thereby; addition of colloidal silica; pouring the resulting mixture into the desired mould; sol gelling and fast removal of the solid product; gel drying; gel densification by means of a thermal treatment at temperature ranging from 900 °C to 1500 °C. The articles can be used as preforms for the optical fiber spinning.

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